

**Notice of Determination  
General State Operating Permit for the  
Application of Aquatic Herbicides**

**Permit No. SOPHAS000**

**October 19, 2004**

**I. Background**

Aquatic herbicide application refers to spraying nuisance aquatic plants with chemicals to kill, inhibit and reduce plant growth and provide for potential long-term control of such plants. In Tennessee, nuisance and noxious weed growth primarily occurs in Corps of Engineers and Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) reservoirs, but can also occur in smaller impoundments. Most herbicides are organic chemical mixtures. Contact herbicides are fast-acting, thus killing quickly and then dissipating. Systemic herbicides work more slowly and may remain unchanged in the water column for a longer period of time. Chelated copper compounds are sometimes used in conjunction with organic chemical mixtures to increase effectiveness of weeds control.

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, Division of Water Pollution Control (the division) has regulated the spraying of herbicides to control nuisance aquatic plants growth for more than ten years. The division issued a General State Operating Permit (SOP) which authorized owner/operators or certified persons to apply contact herbicides to waters of the state that are contained within federal and state managed impoundments and lakes, provided the activities are in compliance with the terms of the permit.

This general permit was placed on public notice dated June 21, 2004. Subsequently, the division held a series of public hearings across the state between July 26, 2004, and July 27, 2004. During the comment period that closed on August 13, 2004, the division received a number of oral and written comments, which are summarized below in Section II.

**II. Comments and responses to comments**

- Comment: The general aquatic contact herbicide permit was issued last year and now a general systemic aquatic herbicide application permit is being proposed. Both permits require an annual maintenance fee. Why not issue a single general permit for aquatic herbicide application of either contact and systemic herbicides?
- Response: This general herbicide application permit will be revised to include both contact and systemic herbicides with and without chelated copper herbicides.
- Comment: The terminology used throughout the rationale and proposed permit must be consistent. For example – there were references to “aquatic systemic herbicide”, “systemic

herbicide”, “herbicides”, “registered systemic herbicides” and “systemic aquatic herbicide”. A more consistent, less confusing term for the herbicides should be used.

Response: The division will make the permit clear and concise.

The division’s determination is to issue SOPHAS000 consistent with the above stated responses to comments.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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Edward H. Polk, Jr., P.E.  
Manager, Permit Section